



Mt. Fuji and Cherry Blossoms

WELCOME TO JAPAN





Tokyo at dusk

Welcome to Japan! We sincerely hope you will enjoy your experiences in Japan and explore the culture. As you have probably already noticed, life overseas can be challenging and full of adventure.

Commander Destroyer Squadron 15 would like to make you feel welcome right away and help you with these challenges. This booklet should help relieve some of the stress associated with PCS'ing to a foreign country. It is an easy reference for a variety of questions you may have.

As the Command Ombudsman, my job is to provide you with information and referrals to base and military services and to help ease the transition to living here in Yokosuka, Japan. I look forward to meeting you & your family in person.

Kindest regards,

Jody Marshburn

Desron 15 Ombudsman

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Things to Do First

When you first arrive, things here can be overwhelming. You have to deal with jet lag and move into a hotel for an unknown amount of time. Don't worry—it all gets organized soon enough.

When you check into the Navy Lodge, you will be provided with paperwork from the desk staff. Please pay attention to the dates for the payment of TLA. Ask your sponsor or CDS 15's administration department, if you have any questions. The checklist from the Navy Lodge is very helpful in completing your check in. This checklist was generated by the Fleet and Family Service Center. Remember the times for the housing brief, AOB/ICR classes (Area Orientation Brief/Intercultural Relations Class) and the orientation for the child development center (if you need child care during AOB/ICR).

Where Do I Begin...

1. MOST IMPORTANTLY - Make several copies of your orders and Dependent Entry Approval (DEA), Official Orders, and if applicable, a valid Power of Attorney. Many services on base in Yokosuka, including setting up telephone, registering a vehicle, household goods delivery, and housing office business require a spouse to have a valid power of attorney. Bring them with you wherever you go for at least 2 weeks. Also learn your sponsor's work phone number as soon as possible. You will be asked for this information often.

2. Sign Up for A.O.B./I.C.R. Participation is mandatory for all incoming active duty, civilian and adult dependents. Registration begins at 0730 on Tuesday for that week at the Benny Decker Movie Theater.

3. Your sponsor should help the active duty member with the check-in process to Commander Destroyer Squadron 15. COMDESRON 15 has its own FAST office team. Please see Chief Bool for more information. At this time, COMDESRON 15 does not use the FAST office located near Sbarro's.

4. Get cell phones. You need a way for people to get in touch with you and cell phones are the easiest way. (If living off-base, many people do not bother with a Japanese land line, since they are expensive.) Softbank (formerly Vodophone) is offered at the NEX and AU is offered down Blue Street. Many people say that AU has a better service area. (See "Telephone Information" section for general dialing instructions.)

5. Figure out your living arrangements.

Attend the housing briefing at the housing office (held daily at 0800) and get on the on-base housing waiting list. There are two briefs a day. The first is for OFF-base housing and is every day at 0830. The second is for living ON-base and is every day at 0200. Bring your PCS orders stamped by their receiving command, family entry approval, and either detaching endorsement or history of assignment. You will need to be on the briefing roster. To register you can call 243-9037 or 046.816.9037. You can also register by stopping by the front desk at the Housing Center (attached to the Navy Lodge). (See Living Arrangements for more information)

6. If you have young children, call the Hourly Child Development Center (CDC) and make sure your child/children have daycare reservations set up during the Area Orientation Brief (AOB) class that you must attend. At the CDC, you need to attend an orientation (held daily at 0900) and bring an immunization record for each child. Check to see if your sponsor can book a reservation for your children at the CDC before you arrive, since it tends to book up quickly! (See "Children in Japan" section.) For more information:
<http://www.cfay.navy.mil/mwr/cdc.html>

7. Set up your banking in Japan:

- ☐ Navy Federal: 243-3333
- ☐ Community Bank: 243-4585 (ATMs will issue Yen or US Dollars)
- ☐ Dollars can be exchanged for yen at the following base locations:
- ☐ Club Alliance (Enlisted)
- ☐ CPO Club
- ☐ Officer's Club
- ☐ Community Bank

8. Passports for your entire family will need to receive the Multiple Entry stamps. Take your orders, family entry approval and both your No-Fee passport and your tourist passports to the first deck of the PSD building.

9. Schools: The DODDS schools on base all have websites that can be accessed from the CFAY website, www.cfay.navy.mil. This is the most accurate source of information for each school's requirements. For preschool-aged children, there is the Yokosuka Co-op Preschool on base. Before your arrival, your sponsor can help put your child on the waiting list for attendance, so please don't hesitate to ask.

10. Post Office Box: The main post office is located on Yokosuka Naval base with mini branches located at Ikego & Negishi. Many companies will ship to a FPO address; you just have to research it. You can still have things you can't live without from the US! There are companies set up to assist military families by providing a physical address and re-shipping to the APO/FPO mailing address. APOBox.com is an example of one of these types of companies. (See the sample of stores that ship to FPO/APO for more info)

11. Pets: Pets need to be registered on base within 24 hrs of your arrival. Please call the Veterinary Clinic at DSN: 243-6820 as soon as possible.

Living Arrangements

Housing can be a big concern when you first arrive. There are many options and decisions you will need to consider. CFAY offers 3 housing areas: Yokosuka, Ikego (approx 25 min) & Negishi (approx 45min). The housing office will provide you with estimates of the wait time for base housing once you are on the list. Another option to consider is living off base. The housing referral office is an excellent start to finding the perfect home that suits your personal needs.

CFAY's housing office offers loaner furniture to furnish your on/off base residence until your household goods arrive. Only furniture is provided. The DESRON 15 Hospitality Kit has some key items that may help make your family more comfortable while waiting for your Express & Household good shipments. Please let us know when you are in housing and what items you may need.

On-base Living Options:

- ☐ High-rise towers with 2 and 3 bedroom apartments (no dogs)
- ☐ Townhouses with 3 and 4 bedrooms

You must qualify by rank or number in family. It can take up to a year to move into a townhouse, it depends on availability, so check with the Housing Office.

Off-base Living Options:

- ☐ Individual houses
- ☐ Japanese mansions (apartments)

Whether you and your family choose to live on-base or off-base, both offer different opportunities and both are enjoyable living experiences. There are many people in the DESRON 15 command who can answer questions you may have about either living arrangement.



--Example of an off-base house in Mabari Kaigan

Initial Steps to Finding Off-base Housing:

1. Once you have attended the housing brief:
Begin by looking through the binders full of listings for houses or apartments that are available. They are located in the Housing Office and are separated by neighborhood.
2. If you find some housing listings you'd like to see in person, the housing office will call the agent to arrange a meeting. They will make three appointments at a time for you.
3. Find a rental agent through your sponsor or the Housing Office. Many people recommend using multiple agents so that you can see many different places. This is because it doesn't work like a U.S. real estate agent, who will show you all that is available "on the market."
In Japan, each agent will only show you his or her own rental properties!

Things to Determine Before Talking with a Realtor:

1. Know the amount of your Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA), which is based on rank.
2. Do you want a Japanese-style or Western-style house? (Do you want an American oven or refrigerator in your house, tatami rooms, etc.?)
3. How many bedrooms would work for your family?
4. How close do you want to be to base?
5. What transportation will you use to get to base? Do you want to be close to a train station? Will you be getting 2 cars because then you need 2 parking spaces available at your house?

Note: Two parking spaces/cars is very rare. Most people use the train, a scooter or bike as a 2nd form of transportation. When living off-base, it is also best not to buy a larger car until you see the parking space(s) you will have—it may be tiny!

6. Do you have a dog or cat? This is somewhat limiting. Only townhouses on-base allow dogs, and many houses off-base do not allow pets. But with a little time and luck, you should be able to find an off-base house that allows pets and even one with a small fenced yard.

Steps to Obtaining a Vehicle

First, in order to drive in Japan, you must have a valid stateside driver's license and complete the driver's safety class that is given on the last day of AOB/ICR class. After completing the driver's safety class, passing the written & driving portions of the test, you will be issued a SOFA driver's license. (If you have a teenager who will be coming to driving age while are here, there is a driver's training course is offered through FFSC in conjunction with the Kinnick High School). On base, there is an extensive used car system, where the "lemon lot" showcases the available vehicles. Most cars are reasonably priced, with small coupes selling from about \$1500 and vans in the \$2500-\$5000 range. The "Lemon Lot" is located towards the far left of the Commissary parking lot, near the After School Care facility. Check the bulletin boards around base (ie: Navy Lodge, Commissary, Towers, etc) for other car listings as well.

Note: Obtaining a vehicle can take from 1 to 2 weeks on average. *Cars must be registered in the sponsor's name.* If anyone other than the sponsor—even a spouse—is arranging the registration, a Power of Attorney (POA) is needed. One can be obtained at the Legal Office (Phone: 243-5141) on the 2nd floor of PSD, across from the Fleet and Family Support Center. For any questions about the following process, contact Vehicle Registration Office (Phone: 243-5011).

1. Obtain a valid driver's license (USFJ Form 4) as part of AOB.
2. Find a car you like.
 - a. E-4 and below need approval from their CO and CFAY Security Officer to own a car.
 - b. Buy from "Lemon lot" located next to commissary, individuals, etc.
 - c. Buying a car in town may mean longer wait time for title (>5 days).
3. Get base inspection & JCI for car (on base) if due.
4. Get liability insurance for car

Located in Auto Rental Building between Navy Lodge & Autoport Gas station

 - a. The newer the car, the longer the coverage period needed (<37 months)
 - b. Insurance is paid for up front!

5. Vehicle registration

On base

- a. Take all the info to the Vehicle Registration Office (VRO, across from Fleet Theater) including endorsement from Housing office/Navy Lodge/BOQ (You need to have done housing brief by now.)
- b. Take endorsement to City Hall, Yokosuka and get temp plates (~Y750) if needed. (If transferring ownership from an individual, the permanent plates can transfer to the new owner.)
- c. Get on-base temporary parking pass from VRO.
- d. Back to VRO to get paperwork to take to Yokohama Land Transportation Office (LTO)—recommend looking in back of Seahawk paper for people who will do this for about \$25.
- e. Take all info to LTO (including temp. base parking pass) and car to get plates.
- f. Take temp. plates back to City Hall.
- g. Final vehicle registration with VRO & base pass issued.

Off base

- a. Have copy of signed lease agreement & take to VRO. VRO will let you know which police station to go to.
- b. Go to City Hall and get temp plates if needed.
- c. Go to appropriate police station and apply to get parking space at your home inspected, which takes about 3 to 5 days to process. (Application may be denied if your car is too big to fit into your space.)
- d. Go back to police station on appointed day and get parking sticker issued (Y600).
- e. Go back to VRO and get appropriate paperwork for LTO.
- f. Get plates from LTO and return temp plates to City Hall if applicable.
- g. Get final vehicle registration from VRO & base pass issued.

Setting Up Your Cable & Internet

If you live on base, you can use Americable for cable TV and Internet access (Phone: 241-2288). Americable offers a variety of plans that carry a number of local Japanese stations, some American cable channels, and a few pay channels. In general, the AFN channels offer American programming, with most TV series playing several months behind what is airing in the states. Although, many sporting events are carried live. Reality shows are carried “almost-live”, meaning they air over here the day after they aired in the states.

If you live off base, you can get a decoder box & satellite dish so you can watch the Armed Forces Network (AFN) channels on your television.

Internet service is offered on-base through Americable. Internet service is offered off-base through JCOMM. It may take a week or more from the time you call JCOMM to set up your appointment, so call as soon as you determine your living arrangements.

Netflix (mail order video rental) will work here and though mail may take longer, you can still enjoy “home” delivery of movies and TV shows here in Japan (please use your PSC address not Japan address (if off base) to avoid confusion). You can use a DVD recorder in Japan and one may come in handy if you watch sports. Many U.S. games are on TV during the night if they are live. (*Note that Tivo and ReplayTV devices and services do not work in Japan, even as a manual digital recorder.*)

Telephone Information

Consider using the internet and a service such as Vonage (www.vonage.com), Skype or VOIP to phone the U.S. If you live on base, you can sign up for DSN phone plan through the Base Communications Office (Phone: 24305847). Phone cards are also available at the NEX and various locations around base.

Helpful reminders when calling within Japan (from cell phones)

- ☐ For 241 prefixes: 046-896-XXXX
- ☐ For 243 prefixes: 046-816-XXXX
- ☐ For 246 prefixes: 046-806-XXXX

To Dial the Base Operator:

From on-base: 243-1110

From off-base: 046-816-1110

Calling from the U.S.:

(for other countries, replace 011 with correct international access #)

- ☐ 241 prefixes: 011-81-46-896-XXXX
- ☐ 243 prefixes: 011-81-46-806-XXXX
- ☐ 246 prefixes: 011-81-46-806-XXXX
- ☐ Cell phones start with 090: 011-81-90-XXXX-XXXX
- ☐ Cell phones start with 080: 011-81-80-XXXX-XXXX

To Dial Directly to U.S.:

88 + 00 + 11 + AREA CODE + NUMBER

To call the U.S., you can purchase a NEX EZ-Call Calling Card for \$20 from vending machines at the Navy Lodge, Main Street Food Court, or the Laundromat. You can call using your cell phone without using your airtime minutes, but you will get fewer minutes for your money than if you call using a land line.

Note: In Japan, cell phone plans usually have fewer minutes included per month than U.S. plans. However, incoming calls are free on cell phones (they don't take away from your monthly minutes). Many people also use text messaging since it doesn't cost as much as a call if you exceed your allotted minutes per month.

Child Care in Japan

The Navy's Child Care centers have won awards for their merit. They are well run and provide excellent care. However due to their high standards, they can sometimes be inconvenient and frustrating for parents not accustomed to the numerous rules and regulations designed to protect the children.

Hourly CDC: This is child care for children not yet in 1st grade and needing less than 25 hours a week (exceptions are made for AOB/ICR class). This is located at the Community development center. Hours of operation 0700-1700 and they charge \$3.00 per hour per child. They take reservations up to 2 weeks in advance. They offer preschool and kindergarten drop off and pick up. *You must attend an orientation before using the center and you will need to provide your child's immunization records.* (Phone: 241-4101)

Main CDC: This center is only for children under school age needing full time care (over 25 hours a week). Dual active duty have priority. They have a waiting list for all others. Their rates depend on total pay. They will require an LES when registering; also immunization records are needed. *Open the second Saturday of the month to all children from 1700-2400.* (Phone: 243-3219)

Family Child care: These are certified home child care providers on the Yokosuka and Ikego housing areas. They are certified and trained by the Family Child Care office (in the Taco Bell building upstairs). At this office you can register to use these providers and they can give you the listing of providers with profiles. These care givers can provide a variety of services for all ages of children. Immunization records are needed. (Phone: 243-3222)

Ikego and Negishi CDCs: These centers provide both part time and full time care. They both require orientation and immunization records. (Ikego Phone: 246-8060; Negishi Phone: 242-4316)

Useful Base Information

Base Taxis:

DSN: 243-4444 or CELL: 046-816-4444

Autoport

(Next to the Navy Lodge) Hours: 0600-2300 daily

Car service center, Gas station, Garden Center, Convenience Store ~ offering a variety of items: milk, water, basic food items, frozen entrees, juice, and a video Rental

Barber Shop

(Two locations)

Navy Exchange Hours: 0900-1900 Monday-Friday; 0900-1800 Saturday; 1000-1800 Sunday

Fleet Recreation Center Hours: 1000-1700 daily

Beauty Shop

(Inside Navy Exchange) Hours: 0900-1900 Monday-Friday; 0900-1800 Saturday and Sunday

Commissary

(Next to Navy Exchange) Hours: 0800-2000 Monday-Friday; 0900-1900 Saturday and Sunday

Navy Exchange

(Next to Commissary) Hours: 0900-2000 daily

The Mini-Mart (convenience store) and Book Store are within the Navy Exchange

Fleet Exchange

(In Fleet Center) Hours: 0900-1900 daily

A smaller Navy Exchange with mainly athletic equipment and clothing

Fleet and Family Support Center

(PSD building, 2nd Floor) Hours: 0800-1630 M-T-W-F. 0800-1500 Thursdays
For family support, free community classes, maps and emergency translation services.

Video Rental

(Across from Navy Exchange) Hours: 1000-2100 Monday-Saturday; 1000-1800 Sunday

Dry Cleaning/Laundry

(Across from McDonald's) Hours: 0700-1730 Monday-Friday; 0900-1700 Saturday

Laundromat

(Between Commissary and Navy Exchange)

See "Shopping On-Base" and "Places to Eat On-Base" for more base information.

Shopping On-base

□ NEX Autoport Gas and Garden Center located next to gas station. They sell some foods, beer and wine, automotive items, outdoor items and tools.

□ Navy Exchange (NEX) is located across from Starbucks and has clothing, shoes, books, toiletries, liquor, toys, electronics, etc.

□ NEX Children's Store is located in front of the Navy Exchange on the 3rd floor. This store sells children's clothing and equipment from newborn to teens.

□ NEX Home Accents is located in front of the Navy Exchange. This store sells kitchen items, household decorations, Japanese items, crystal and other nice things.

□ NEX Furniture store is located next to Starbucks and has furniture for every room in your house.

□ NEX Depot has nicked or damaged furniture, cooking supplies in bulk, office supplies, outdoor sheds and some electronics and tools.

□ Takusan Treasures is located in the Thew Gym (towards the back). The gift shop sells many different items from Asia. Open Tuesday and Thursday 1000-1500 and the second Saturday of every month from 1000-1400

□ Second Hand Rose is located on the second floor of NEX car rental building. This is a thrift store and donations are accepted during business hours. Tuesday and Thursday from 0900-1400 and the second Saturday of the month from 0900-1400.

□ Hobby Mart is located on the second floor of the community center and has a variety of crafts, dance and other items. Open on Tuesday-Sunday 1000-1800.

Shopping Off-base

□ Daiei Shopping Mall: The first floor has a grocery store (like most Japanese department stores). Then there are many floors and shops, including a book store with an English section and a food court. There is a gate (for walking only) onto base through the back side of the Daiei. It is only open weekdays from 0600-2000 and is closed on U.S. holidays.

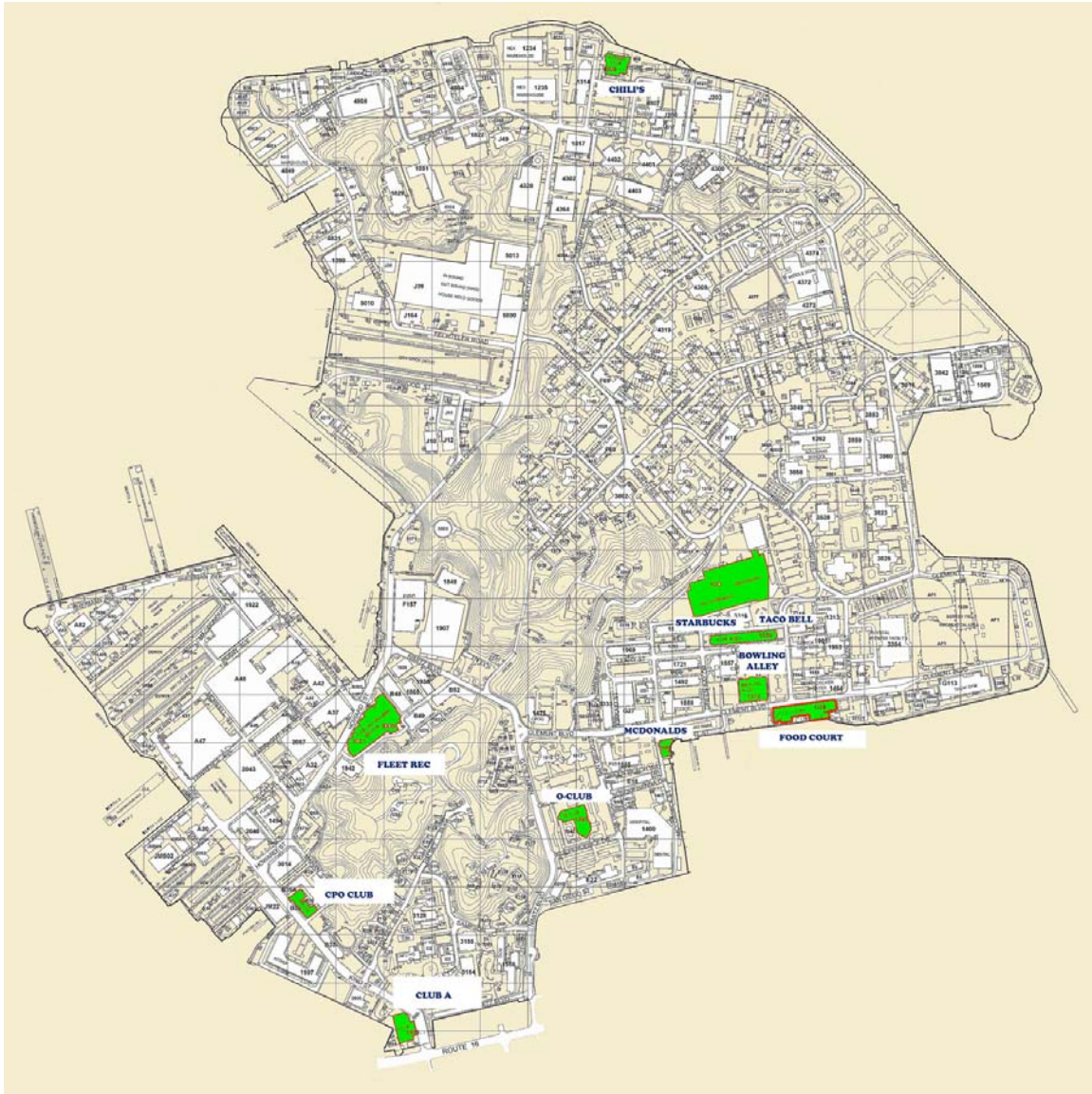
□ 100 Yen store, “Daiso”: There are 2 of these “dollar store equivalents” located across from the Daiei. Walk the crosswalk over Rt.16 and walk down the side street in front of Daiei with a “Mikasa” store on your left and an Italian Pizza restaurant on your right. In the rear of the office building with the pizza restaurant, go through a narrow hallway leading to an escalator/staircase. Take it to the second floor. You will see a Subway (the sandwich chain) and 2 stores across from each other that are both “Daiso” stores.

□ Blue Street: There are multiple shops and restaurants down “Blue Street.” Look up because many buildings have shopping on several floors. (Many stores and restaurants are closed on Wednesdays.) Look for:

- More’s City (a “mall” behind Yokosuka Chuo station)
- Saikaya department store (with up-scale department store in basement)
- Gap located on 2nd floor of Saikaya department store
- Seiyu department store (with grocery in basement)
- Many other stores!

□ Homes, Livin and Ave are departments stores that you can drive to along Route 16. D2 is a similar store located along Route 134. (From base, turn left out of Main Gate and travel along Route 16. When you see Red Lobster, turn right at a light onto Route 134). Each of these stores has a variety of home items you may need. Livin also sells clothing.

Places to Eat On-Base



Chili's

(Next to the Navy Lodge; does have a take out menu available.)

Officer's Club (Currently Under renovations)

(Across from the Hospital)

There are multiple places to eat and socialize here.

Main Dining Room-open for lunch and dinner and has dress code of no jeans or shorts after 1700.

The Warehouse- Casual restaurant located in the rear of the O'Club

Deli- Located next to the front entrance

Bar- located in main entrance (*No children allowed*)

CPO Club

(Across from ATG, on the main gate side of base)

Delicious Buffets & nightly specials

Banquet Facilities for Functions Available

Club Alliance (Club A)

(Right at the entrance to Main Gate)

This All-Hands Club offers a variety of delicious food, dancing & much more

McDonald's

(Across from Navy Federal Credit Union)

Outdoor play area and drive-thru available

Taco Bell

(Across from Navy Exchange)

Drive-thru available

Starbucks Coffee

(Across from Navy Exchange, next to ITT)

Main Street USA Food Court

(Across from Benny Decker Theater)

Popeye's Chicken

Seattle's Best Coffee and Cinnabon,

Long John Silver's,

A & W Root Beer,

Chinese Restaurant

Subway

Sbarro's

(Attached to Main Street USA Food Court)

Buffet open Thursday-Sunday

NEX Food Court

(In the Navy Exchange)

Anthony's Pizza (delivery 243-food),

Dunkin Donuts,

Baskin Robbins, and

American Eatery

Fleet Recreation Center

Cinnamon St. Bakery,

Mean Gene's hamburgers,

Submarine sandwich shop and pizza

Bowling Alley

(Between Main Street USA and McDonald's)

Mean Gene's hamburgers and pizza

Sample of Stores That Ship to APO/FPO

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Amazon (most items) | Ann Taylor / Ann Taylor Loft | Baby Center |
| Banana Republic | Barnes & Nobles | Best Buy(some items) |
| Campmor | Drugstore.com/Beauty | Gap |
| GNC | Gymboree | Hanna Anderson |
| Harry and David | Joann's | J.C. Penney |
| J. Crew | J. Jill | Lands End |
| Lane Bryant | Linens N Things | Lion Brand Yarn |
| Moose Jaw | Nashbar | Nordstrom |
| Norm Thompson | Old Navy (\$5 shipping per order) | PACSUN Wear |
| Performance Bike | Petco | REI |
| Robeez | Sears | Sierra Trading Post |
| Stride Rite | Target (some items) | The Children's Place |
| The Right Start | Victoria's Secret | Wal-Mart |
| Zappos | Zippos | |

Useful Websites

Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka

www.cfay.navy.mil

Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC)

www.cfay.navy.mil/fscopyo/index.htm

Military Installations Database (Replacement for SITES)

<http://militaryinstallations.dod.mil>

Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR)

www.cfay.navy.mil/

Train Schedules

www.hyperdia.com

www.jorudan.co.jp

Armed Forces Network Satellite TV Schedule

www.myafn.net

Yokosuka City Information

www.city.yokosuka.kanagawa.jp/e/index.html

The New Sanno

(Military Hotel in Tokyo)

www.thenewsanno.com

Translate Names into Japanese (Kanji)

www.japanese-name-translation.com

IACE Travel (Airfare to U.S.A.)

www.iace.co.jp/english/

Fun Things to Do With Children

There are many fun and convenient things to do with kids in Yokosuka. Here are a few ideas:

- Check with the *Community Center* and *Youth Center* for different classes such as music and dance lessons and craft classes.
- Also check out Purdy Fitness Center for classes, such as stroller exercise classes, Mommy-n-me gymnastics for toddlers, and swim lessons for babies and older children.
- Fleet and Family Support Center provides directions to many different places to go with children. (You can download them from the CFAY website as well.)
- The local Japanese mall Daiei (pink mall right next to base) has an indoor play area on the second floor that is great for children under 5. It is 500 yen to play all day (with shopping breaks, of course.)
- There are so many parks and beaches for children and they are easy to find.
- Don't hesitate to ask any parent at the play areas what you can do with your little ones. Everyone here was new once and they can help you out.
- Kids can really thrive here and enjoy the culture as much as you can. They can also make it easier for you to meet friends through them!

Other Organizations and Training Courses

In the fall, look for advertisements for the annual “Welcome Fair,” to disseminate information about CFAY Clubs and Organizations.

Attend and learn more about how to become involved in social and volunteer activities, while meeting new friends, of course! Here are just a few groups you might be interested in:

□ Local Colleges & Universities

You'll find many opportunities to go back to school. Below is a list of on-base colleges & universities offered at Fleet Activities Yokosuka. Most information can be found at the Fleet Rec Center across from the piers.

Central Texas College

Programs: Assoc. Degree programs in Education, Criminal Justice, business Administration, Early Childhood Professions, Fire Protection Technology, Law Enforcement and General Studies

University of Oklahoma

Programs: Master of Human Relations

University of Maryland University College (UMUC)

Programs: visit their website for more info [www..ad.umuc.edu](http://www.ad.umuc.edu)

Troy State University

Programs: Master of Science in Management, Master of Public Administration

PACE (Program for Afloat College Education)

Provides tuition for free basic skills development, as well as college classes aboard deployed commands.

Navy College Learning Center

Offers a many courses and testing for SAT/ACT, GED, college courses, and CLEP. For more information, please call 243-7971

□ COMPASS “A Course for Navy Life”

This is a group of volunteer Navy spouses who mentor other Navy spouses. The training is usually a 3-day course from 0900-1200 and teaches spouses about all aspects of “Navy Life”—including acronyms/abbreviations, how to read an LES, how to PCS in the Navy, and even local insights. Breakfast and lunch are provided for participants. Childcare reimbursement is also available.

□ Ikebana International Kamakura Chapter 51

This is a group of Japanese and Americans whose motto is “Friendship through Flowers.” The unique monthly programs are an exchange of Japanese and American culture, featuring music, dance, theater, and art to name a few. There are Ikebana demonstrations twice each year, and a member demonstration in June.

□ Japanese American Wives (JAW)

The Japanese American Wives Group (JAW) is an intercultural group "...to promote lasting friendships between Japanese and American women and increase intercultural understanding."

The At-Large Group holds four major social events per year. Two events are planned and hosted by the Japanese members and two by the American members. The At-Large Group membership is limited to 50 Japanese wives and 50 American wives. Dues: \$25

The Conversation Group is a smaller group that meets Tuesday mornings on a bimonthly basis. This group is committed to sharing cultural experiences, traditions and ideas. Members have the opportunity to practice English and Japanese language skills and enjoy new friendships. The Conversation Group membership is limited to 30 Japanese and 30 American wives. Dues: \$35

For more information or questions email: JAWYokosuka@yahoo.com

□ Yokosuka Officers Spouse Club (YOSC)

As a club for spouses of Yokosuka officers, this is a large and active organization. A special YOSC welcome event for officers' spouses will be held in the fall